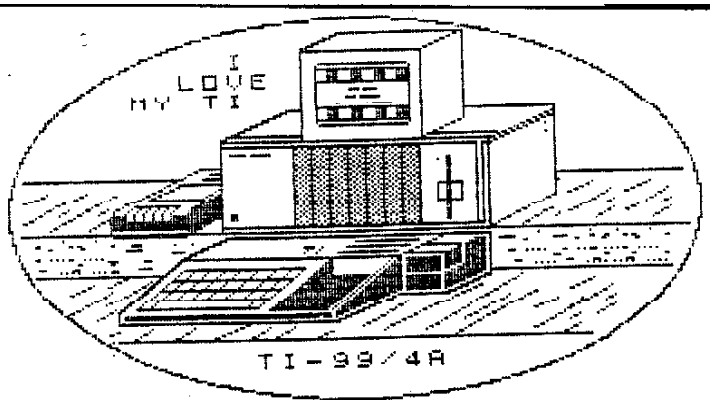

Topics

LA 99er COMPUTER GROUP Newsletter

VOL 7 NO 3 MARCH 1988

T n T

A PUBLIC APOLOGY

Sometimes one must extract foot from mouth and that time is now. Actually it was my tongue in my cheek with the "guess who will not be in Las Vegas" comment. There I was in a very crowded area, slowly I turned, step by step, and I damn near stepped on BOB BOONE! Yikes!! as my grandson Anthony would say. Well Ottawa did make it, not in force as promised, but one certainly much better than none. Actually there were several of our northern neighbors present, thanks to all of them. Bob treated me to a very lavish $.49 breakfast and we had the opportunity to chat extensively. Out of this conversation came the beginning of an attempt to set an annual schedule of "fairs, fests, fayuhs, expos, etc, so they do not infringe upon one another. With this in mind for 1989 we look to February for So. West Coast area, March for New Jersey, April for Boston and May for Ottawa. Hopefully the other areas will also declare their months and we can early publicize them, so plans to attend can be made by user and vendor. Also in this vein, we have approached San Diego for FEST-WEST'89. Hopefully they will agree, its an ideal area for family attendance. More on this later. As an aside, it has always been FEST-WEST, not FEST-LA. We feel it benefits, we all benefit by circulation regionally.

LAS VEGAS. INCREDIBLE

You had to have been there to experience it. The positive energy, the sensitivity, the friendship, the ambiance. It was all there, and a small group of people carried it off. We have attended several across the country, put on our own, nothing has yet touched this one. The SUPER EXPO!! Thanks SNUG you pulled it off. There was a great feeling from beginning to end. The Hotel (as predicted by Howie Rosenberg) was GREAT! Friendliness and courtesy reminiscent of "old Las Vegas". The Palace Station was voted #1 by Las Vegas residents. Thats for sure. Restaurants outstanding, Casino rewarding, payouts good. If you lost, it took hours to do so. Lots of play for your money. Nickels and dollars got the same courtesy. The $.49 breakfast 11P-7A was outstanding, as was the service. Rooms adequate, nothing lacking here. I would happily return there any time. The Meeting and Seminar rooms were excellent. All tables cheerfully set up and tableclothed, by hotel personnel. Looked good and felt good. Carpeted and comfortable. VERY well done. SNUG members and their families were so incredibly helpful in hauling both in and out all the heavy equipment brought to Las Vegas. (We had to rent a U-Haul for our load). Makes one feel as if there was no way to say THANK YOU enough.

Steve Mehr speaks for all of us in his commentary of this incredible gathering. I just want to add a few thoughts and feelings about size and feelings. This was certainly not the largest size/attendance wise. It certainly was the best otherwise. People, friendly people made it the best. Regena, Cheryl Whitelaw, her husband Chandler, just to see them and their giving personalities, shows what sincerity and friendship really is. Her contributions to the 4A community are to be learned from, sincerity and integrity. She lives them, she is them.

Couple of years ago we first met BJ and Jack Mathis of the Southwest 99ers Tucson. They quickly realized we needed help at FEST-WEST, and stepped right in organizing the registration. Well they volunteered to do this for Las Vegas, and did they ever do it well. Smoothly and efficiently. They now have a very current list of up to date User Groups and Users. I am sure other groups and vendors could get a copy from them. $5.00 (my suggestion) should help cover expenses they incurred. Southwest 99ers P.O.Box 17831, Tucson Az 85730. BJ you

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS

L.A.99ER COMPUTER GROUP P.O. BOX 67A79 LOS ANGELES, CA. 90067

look great!

Long distance vendors, Great Lakes, Genial, Myarc, Rave, Bud Mills, L.L Connor, thanks, you are really appreciated. User Groups that supported Las Vegas, thank you too! I, as a few others of us there, hope the Rocky Mount group does benefit from the active resales at their table. If this was strictly a personal venture, it should have been so listed.

I am sure I am overlooking something, if so excuse me, perhaps my brain will kick in before this goes to press. Aside to Al Kinney, read your rebuttal after I returned home, right on!

HANG IN THERE GEORGE

One person sadly missed in Las Vegas was George Steffen. Having had a kidney failure set-back, he was still intending to get to Las Vegas. T&T were both unable to reach him for 3 days prior to our leaving LA, and after arriving in Las Vegas. We did not know until his flite arrived without him that he would (could) not attend. We had several anxious moments. I arrived back in LA 4AM Monday and tried to reach someone, finally got George's daughter Rosa in Columbia, S. Carolina. The news was not good. Between then and today March 17, George has been in two crises, medical and surgical. Today Howie Rosenberg left word he was now out of intensive care and on a ward at the Bronx V.A. Tom had an extensive conversation with George's doctor, who said he has regained his sense of humor. George, as those of you who have met him personally know, is one tough son of a gun. He has an uphill battle and once again can use all the prayers and good karma you can send his way. Keep those cards and letters coming, faith has strength. George Steffen, 5935 Leibig Ave., Bronx, NY 10471. I plan to visit George March 24, can't stand being so far away and feeling so impotent. Guess I will see some of you at TICOFF. T&T will both be in Boston 'fo the FAYUH April 9th. LA 99ers will sponser a booth there, stop by and say hello.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

FRIENDSHIP, How valuable it is. The recent Las Vegas TI-EXPO once again gave the opportunity to make new and renew other friendships. Bill Gaskill, what a pleasure to meet him, certainly have read and reprinted some of his work, so nice to now include him as a friend. Jim Lohmeyer, Peter Hoddie, Jack Riley, (yes him, and yes I do like him). Thinking back to 1982 and my entry into the 4A community, met and became friendly then with two, George Steffen was one, the other I regret. The feelings of care and concern for one, disgust and disdain for the other. My experience within the community has been overwhelmingly positive. There are just a few I choose not to like. Greed and self-importance are not characteristics I embrace. Current scenario is like Faust. How sad. Selling off first ammendment rights. Oh well, never liked a lumpy bed.

Glad to see Myarc finally getting some decent press. Lots of positive comments in most of the newsletters I read. Still a few that need to be noticed, even if it is in a negative vein. Sad but true. Guess more of the happily satisfied 9640 users have to express their satisfaction. Yes you too Tom.

Guess we have to let Stan Veit know The letter of appreciation for providing the community with a good newsletter got lost in the mail. Realistically can't be any other reason for it, and we certainly don't want him to think we are so ungracious as to not reprint it. Especially as we so appreciate his continuing to provide ample 99/4A space in Computer Shopper.

Recently saw some comment on a survey of user groups and users, which concluded that there are far less active than thought. I for one totally disagree. We did not answer that survey as we never really determined its actual intent. We actively exchange 136 newsletters monthly. Granted some are not as large as others, but some of the smaller groups actually put out an excellent newsletter. We will once again be asking groups whose newsletters are simply reprints of others to have one of their members become a paid subscriber to Topics, this way we can continue both our size and first class postage. The recent action by one group who can no longer get their newsletter reprinted free, therefore was going to go to a quarterly newsletter on diskette does not impress me. I do not feel like sitting here and unpacking it to see just what is there, rather spend my time productively putting out this newsletter, I have NO time to be doing others. There goes an exchange.

John Owen, and the United Data base, if you have not yet done so, look into this. If all major newsletters are indexed it will make life easier for those of us who just know we read it somewhere, but where? John will be in contact with Bill Gaskill so great minds can go in a forward track. Go for it.

Strange bedfellows, Roger Dooley and Ron Albright

Fourth Wednesday, FOURTH wednesday!

We meet March 23, not the 30th, beware there are 5 Wednesdays this month, we don't want you to miss out on a good meeting. See you there THIS Wednesday.

[Note from Tom] As the months go on, I find myself contributing less and less to this column allegedly by "TnT." Terrie has her ways with words here and mine find their way into articles and/or programs. I hope to stick my nose in somatics anyway. See ya on the keyboard!

HOW TO FORMAT A NEWSLETTER

by Tom Freeman

I have been asked by a number of people to explain how I format this newsletter (the original articles, that is, since some material is reproduced from elsewhere). This turns out to be easier said than done, as I have developed the method over a period of a couple of years. I will attempt to give a general outline however.

Let me say at the outset that for this particular job I wish I had a Macintosh, with it's Desktop Publishing capabilities. All of the "printshop" type programs that I have seen for the TI use the graphics printing mode of the printers, which is too slow for my purposes. So, as is usual with me, I had to develop my own program to do what I want. I have been using "QUADCOL" which was published in various forms in this newsletter a couple of years ago. To be precise, the present version is a modified one of the assembly language version that was added to by Mike Dodd. With the exceptions to be noted below it is available on the UTILITY Disk/Docs available from this club for $8.00 plus $1.00 S & H (I have donated all the programs on the disk to this club for fundraising, I do NOT see any money from the sales). The program as contained on the disk has the added advantage that the assembly language has been attatched to the XB file via ALSAVE, as found in Genial Traveler.

Before I get into the actual method of formatting several articles into two columns over several pages, let's add the lines that I use in my present version. They basically add the capability of having title lines at the beginning of each article, using as many lines as you wish. A couple of errors are also corrected. Note that in the following lines, the XBasic checksums have been used (!xxx at the end of each line). Do not type them in whether or not you are using checksums.

```
161 DISPLAY AT(17,1):"TITLES ?"""" TO END," TO SKIP Y" :: ACCEPT AT(17,28)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("YN")BEEP:AN$ :: IF AN$="N" THEN 170 !086
162 DISPLAY AT(18,1):"LF ";STR$(LS);"/216" :: ACCEPT AT(18,4)SIZE(-2)VALIDATE(DIGIT) BEEP:LS :: DISPLAY AT(18,1):"" :: PRINT #2:CHR$(15);E$;"3";CHR$(LS)!128
163 ACCEPT AT(18,1)SIZE(-28) BEEP:TT$ :: IF TT$="" THEN 170 ELSE IF ASC(TT$)=126 THEN 169 !118
164 ACCEPT AT(19,1)SIZE(-28) BEEP:TT1$ :: IF TT1$<>"" THEN TT$=TT$&TT1$ !212
165 PRINT #2:CHR$(14)&" "&TT$&CR$&LF$ :: GOTO 163 !116
169 PRINT #2:CR$&LF$ :: GOTO 163 !228
470 DISPLAY AT(22,1):"LINES PER COLUMN?";CL:"LINE SPACING "&STR$(LS)&"/216 IN.":"PAGE LENGTH (LINES)?";PL !044
```

In the above lines, 161 lets you decide whether or not titles are to be used (if not, you skip to the rest of the program). If they are then you choose line spacing (in case it is to be non-standard in the rest of the printout) with 36/216 as the default, and the program switches to compressed mode, and sets the line spacing with CHR$(27)&"3". In line 163 you input text (null string, i.e. FCTN 3, ENTER skips to end), and line 164 allows you to add more text in case 28 characters isn't enough - spaces at end of first line are IGNORED - and then the line is printed with CHR$(14) telling the printer to print ONE line in expanded print (expanded plus compressed is slightly larger than normal print, but in any case looks larger than the rest of the text which is compressed). I have added an automatic 3 spaces to lead with because I always print this newsletter with 6 spaces in the left margin, but you could put the leading spaces into the first line of text if your left margin is variable. Note also that in line 163 besides checking if the input is null, the program also checks if the first character is a ~, in which case a line is skipped. Furthermore as you choose to input more lines of text, previous input is left on the screen (I use this for underlining).

Please make the following corrections or changes: to the end of line 10 add :: CL=60 :: LS=36 :: PL=66 (These are for defaults for lines per column, line spacing and page length) In line 110 change the name of the printer (I must have been using the Myarc RAMdisk spooler) to whatever you wish - then you won't have to type it in every time. Change line 470 to

```
DISPLAY AT(22,1):"LINES PER
COLUMN?";CL:"LINE SPACING "&
STR$(LS)&"/216 IN.":"PAGE LE
NGTH (LINES)?";PL
```

This allows you to change the defaults easily by changing only line 10; then the correct values will come up in the main part of the program as well as the special section for title lines.

Please note that your printer may not allow ESC "3"

to set the line feed in units of 1/216 in. In that case all (?) printers do allow units of 1/72 in. with ESC "A", so change: line 210, substituting an "A" for the "3". line 10, making LS=12, lines 162 & 470, substitute 72 for 216.

Finally, I discovered an minor error in that the printers do not allow a "tab" to column 0, so the program was never in fact printing at what I, or you, thought was the left margin. Hence I changed line 160, mid-portion to RIGHT-LEFT+DIFF-1, and in line 420 I added CHR$(8); after the first T$;

Now you are ready to format your "newsletter" or whatever you have to print. You may have several articles to print, or one long one. First you have to make the basic decision as to approximately how much text you want per page. In TopIcs, we use graphics at the top and bottom of the page that occupy about one inch, hence at 66 lines per page that leaves about 59-60 lines of print for each page. [By the way I have to admit that because of the graphics page design we format the pages separately and then paste the final printed output on each page.] You also have to decide what kind of left and right margins, column width, etc. that you want (and if these are recurring values, you can insert them for your defaults in the QUADCOL program). And one other basic decision if you have more than one file is whether you want all all your files continuous column by column (meaning that a new article could begin in the middle of one column) as I have seen some newsletters, or whether each article should begin with its columns at the same position on the page, which is the way I do TopIcs. This latter method is much more difficult and requires more pre-printing planning, but I like its looks better. Others may not agree.

Once you have done all this I would suggest making a trial printout of each article, to see what size it is (how many lines it takes) as well as for proof reading. If you are reasonably sure that there are no mistakes you could also run my LINECOUNTER program, which is located at the end of this article. Use the column width you decided on above, but the other dimensions don't matter at this point.

Now get out a piece of paper (paper? and pencil? HORRORS!) and write down the total size of each article. First divide by two or number of columns you use. Now you know how many printer lines the article will take. Then add 1 (or more if you wish) for the space at the end of each article before the next, plus however many you will be using for the title lines, if any (remember the blank lines). At this point you know about how much room each article will take.

Now comes another basic decision. Assuming that you decided that each article should begin with both its columns in the same page position, do you want to go straight through, regardless of size so that a section might begin with just a couple of lines at the bottom of a page, or end with a couple at the top, with even line spacing throughout, or do you want to mess around with the line spacing and make each article come as close to an exact number of pages or half pages as you can. This would involve changing line feeds to get a variable number of lines on each page (QUADCOL allows you to do this). If you are going to change the line feeds and lines per page the following table might be of use to you. "lines in 10 in." used for top and bottom graphics.

/216 in. LF	/12 in. LF	lines in 11 in.	lines in 10 in
28		85	77
29		82	74
30	10	79	72
31		77	69
32		74	67
33	11	72	65
34		70	63
35		68	61
36	12	66	60
37		64	58
38		62	56
39	13	61	55

At this point I make a quick estimate whether an article takes close to an exact number of pages, or perhaps will come about to the middle of a page. Assuming that the order of the articles doesn't make much of a difference, I also look to see whether one might take about 2/3 page on its last page, and another 1/3, so that these might fit together as well. This process takes a certain amount of creativity and//or ingenuity, because I also begin to change some of the line feeds.

Let's take some examples, with the assumption that I want 10 inches (normally 60 lines) of text per page. Say that I have the following articles: (with the division by 2 and the addition of title lines already done)

ART #1 64 Lines
ART #2 80
ART #3 165
ART #4 100
ART #5 29
ART #6 31
ART #7 40

First I see that ART#1 almost fits on one page. Here the easiest thing to do is to reduce the line feed to 33/216 (or 11/72). This will give me 65 lines according to the table above, so ART#1 will fit on one page. ART#2 is neither here nor there - 80 lines is about one and a half pages, but not quite. So my eye scans to see if there is another that will go with it, and lo and behold! ART#4 will fit together with it

exactly. The two together are 180 lines which is exactly 3 pages. So if I can take them out of order this will work well. Similarly ART#5 and ART#6 fit together. Now for the two that are left, I have two choices - either I put them together to make 265 lines which is about three and a half pages, and really stretch out the line feeds, or I take ART#3 with its 165 lines, make the line feed 39/216 (13/72) which gives 55 lines per page, or 165 lines in 3 pages, and then leave the last 40 lines in ART#7 alone, and hope that a filler comes along before I go to press!!!

There might also be times when it would work out to have the normal line feeds on all the pages of an article except one where they would be changed to fit together with another article. In any case, once I have decided which parts of which articles are going to go on which pages, and what the line feeds are, and I have written them down on the aforementioned piece of paper, it is time to start printing. I try to be as prepared as I can so that the printing comes out right the first time - unfortunately that doesn't always work!

I position the paper at the top of the first page and then print the title lines of the first article. On my piece of paper where I am keeping track of the lines and pages for each article, I also have indicated how many are true text lines and how many are title lines. QUADCOL gives the option of defining the page length in terms of a number of lines, as well as the actual size of the line feed (and to change them on each page), so if I am careful I can make the paper feed up to the top if the next page for each page of an article, and on the last page go just to the end to get ready for the next article.

I generally use a total of five title lines for each article (title, underline, space, author, space) so ART#1 probably had 58 lines (I added one for the "end"). Thus I would run QUADCOL, immediately answering "33" for the line feed and then typing the title lines. Now I come to the actual text and there are only 58 lines left. A whole page would be 72 - 5 lines however, so if I use 67 for the "page" length then when the printing is done, I will be at the top of the next page. Now we come to ART#2 and ART#4 together and things get just a little more complicated. The line feeds will be normal here. I am assuming that the actual text lengths were 74 lines and 94 lines respectively. So here we go - we type the title for ART#2 and have used up 5 lines. Thus the rest of the first page will have 55 lines of text and 61 "lines" on the page, leaving us at the top of the next page. Now there are 19 lines of text left in ART#2 and we use 20 for the "page" length, so the printer will feed only one line at the end. Now we are ready for the ART#4. We type the 5 title lines and this has now used up 26 printer lines, meaning we can get 34 more printed lines on this page. Thus when QUADCOL asks for the column length and page length for the first page we use 34 and 40 respectively, again putting us at the top of the next printer page. Now for the last page, we use 60 (what is left in the file) and 66.

ART#5 and ART#6 were 29 and 31 lines total, so presumably the text lengths were 23 and 25. Thus in printing ART#5 we will put in the title lines first, then for column lenth 23 and page length 24. Then the title lines for ART#6 and 25 and 31 for the column and page lengths (being at the end of the page allowed us to use the larger page length, to feed up to the next printer page, we could have also used 26 lines and fed up manually, but do not use the form feed on tghe printer, because QUADCOL continually changes the forc length). For ART#3 which will take three pages, but will have only 55 printer lines and 61 actual lines per page because of the change in line feed, we start by printing the title lines. Then the rest of the first page will have a column length of 50 lines and page length of 56, the other two pages will have 55 and 61 respectively.

I am sorry if this article seems long and complicated. In many ways it would be simpler to just plow straight though the articles and print them where they come out. It is my feeling however that each of our authors deserves a place in the newsletter that is is separate from the others. This was the way that that I devised to do it. Hopefully somebody else can learn it too!

One last item - if you take the QUADCOL program and edit it to wind up with the following listing (it is OK to delete and edit lines, even with the assembly language program present) and then reSAVE it, you can use it to quickly scan files to count the lines.

```
SIZE & UNDERLINE FROM FORMAT
TER-don't type this line!!!!
10 CALL CLEAR :: CALL INIT :
: CALL LOAD(8196,63,248):: C
ALL LOAD(16376,65,32,32,32,3
2,32,255,48):: CALL LINK("A"
):: CL=50 :: COLUMN=2
100 OPTION BASE 1 :: DIM A$(
300),C(300),COL(4)
110 CL=50 :: COLUMN=2 :: PRI
NT "LINECOUNTER":"INPUT FILE
?":"DSK" :: ACCEPT AT(23,4)S
IZE(12)BEEP:F$ :: OPEN #1:"D
SK"&F$,INPUT
125 LINPUT #1:P$ :: LINPUT #
1:P$ :: LINPUT #1:P$
160 FOR X=2 TO COLUMN :: COL
(X)=1 :: NEXT X
220 IF EOF(1)THEN CLOSE #1 :
: GOTO 400 ELSE X,Y,X1,X2,X3
=0
230 CALL LINK("COL",X,A$(),Y
,C(),X1,X2,X3,CL,COL(),COLUM
N,EOFFLG):: IF EOFFLG THEN 3
50 ELSE TOTAL=TOTAL+100
330 PRINT TOTAL :: GOTO 220
350 EX=0 :: FOR Z=1 TO X ::
EX=EX+C(Z):: NEXT Z :: TOTAL
=TOTAL+X-EX-1
400 PRINT "TOTAL LINES=";TOT
AL :: RUN 100
```

A REPORT ON TI-XPO-88

by Steve Mehr, UG Member

Well, TI-XPO-88 is only a memory now, but not a dim one by any means. So many good feelings between those who participated. Rekindling old friendships, creating new ones. Finally putting all those voices (thanks ma bell!) together with the faces.

First stop Friday morning, from Thousand Oaks, Southern California, was the San Fernando Valley to pick up the Sage of Sylmar, the Guru of Giving, none other than Raymond P. Kazmer. (I think the P stands for Poindexter.) Fighting off his killer attack K9 wasn't my way of starting off the morning. Ray blamed my early arrival caused him to forget to bring his freeway billboard. Oh well Ray, the shirt box was fine. K9 hair ball removal procedure completed, we sped off (55) to Fullerton (ugh) for our next stop (pick up.) Hiccup!

Early again! Rodger Merritt isn't home yet. Oh well, time for lunch Ray... you buy! After lunch we find that Ray sure can program, but a tailor he's not! Staples won't do, so off we went. Or should I say Ray's pants. Alterations while you wait? Why not! Into the dressing room Ray went. Can't publish the rest of this story, family newsletter you know! Back to Rodger's, let's load up the car, Ray's waiting for a flood, let's go!!! Hours (and three hundred pounds) later we're off (our rockers!) to Vegas.

Arriving in Las Vegas, Nevada around 9:30 P.M., we were greeted with a friendly welcome on the Palace Station marquee, "Welcome TI-XPO-88". Nice touch! After finding out where to park and unload the car, we were greeted again by John Martin and other members of SNUG ready with carts to help us unload. A few hours later, the booth was set up for Rodger which was sponsored by Tri-Valley 99er's and TI Club of Oxnard, both of So. Ca. Ray was nowhere to be found. I think he was testing his slot machine theory... ker plunk!

After we finished setting up Friday night, most of us got together for an early (1 or 2 A.M., I think) breakfast (49 cent!) in the hotel. Wow! Great value and good food too. There I met Bob Boone, President of the Ottawa User's Group in Canada. Peter Hoddie, Jim Lohmeyer, Rodger Merritt, Terrie Masters, Ray Kazmer, and a few others were there too. Thanks for the offer, Ray, but they won't let you pay the bill with just nickels! Actually, Jim picked up the bill (and they only have a breakfast special!)

With no sleep Friday night for Rodger and myself (remember Ray? ZZZzzzz!) we stumbled down for another 49 cent extravaganza. We had to drag Ray, that many nickels aren't light! When the XPO officially opened, it was nothing short of pure heaven, for there were so many "faces" to meet! What follows will hopefully be in some kind of order, as orderly as my brain is right now...

Barb Wiederhold of Queen Anne Computer Shoppe, 6102 Roosevelt Way N. E., Seattle, Wa. 98115, 206-622-9400 or 206-522-6558. They had their new P box alternative called the VFXS Expansion System up and running. Very impressive. Also, flyers were available introducing Videotlex for the 9640. This P box card and software package offers a new graphic environment including many previously unavailable features for the 9640. Both projects are produced by Miller Communications. Their info is 8815 18th Ave. S.W., Seattle, Wa. 98106, 206-762-7610. I believe Tom Wynne was also at the booth. My apologies for the lack of a formal introduction, Tom! I do remember meeting you at Fest-west in L.A.

Ken Hamai, member of BUG, the Brea User's Group, So. Ca., was representing DataBioTics, P.O. Box 1194, Palos Verdes Estates, Ca. 90274. I didn't see any diskette software available during the show, but their latest modules were there for sale. Ken also had the Grand RAM, DataBioTics entry into the RAMdisk market, and a presentation was made during the weekend. P.S. Ken, hope you didn't have any use for a mouse!

J. Peter Hoddie and Jim Lohmeyer occupied the Genial Computerware booth. The complete Genial Computerware software line was available. Printed handouts of the BCS software library were available also. Genial is at P.O. Box 183, Grafton, Ma. 01519. More on this dynamic duo later.

L.L. Conner Enterprise of 1521 Ferry St., Lafayette, In. 47904, 317-742-8146. They has several software packages available from Texaments, Asgard, Great Lakes, and a few others. Many types of assembled cables were also available.

Rave 99 was next at 112 Rambling Rd., Vernon, Ct. 06066, 203-871-7824. John McDavitt had keyboard enhancements and speech cards in plentiful supply. Also available was their new memory enhancement P box card.

More on this later. P.S. Harley says hi!

Digit Systems of 4343 Hortensia St., San Diego, Ca. 92103, 619-295-3301. Tom Spillane was next showing their Digit Systems RGB Conversion Kit, RGB monitor 80 and their new AVPC (Advanced Video Processor Card.) It is a P box card which gives the 4/A user many features never before available for video enhancement.

Franz Wagenbach of T.A.P.E. Ltd., 1439 Solano Pl., Ontario, Ca. 91764, 714-989-9906, was there with plenty of mice in his pockets. Mechatronics Extended Basic modules, Intern books, and showed plenty of fine graphics with Mechatronics 80 colum card.

Espanore Ltd., 7270 Bellaire Ave., N. Hollywood, Ca. 91605, 818-765-0526, 800-247-6783 (USA), 800-225-8230 (Ca). Bill Poland had all of your printer needs covered with computer paper, labels, tractor feed envelopes, etc.

Rocky Mountain User's Group in Denver Co. had a booth also. They were selling just about everything, hardware and software. I didn't quite catch the excitement on Sunday. Any clues?

Rodger Merritt, 1949 Evergreen Ave., Fullerton, Ca. 92635, 714-990-4577, was manning the Tri-Valley and TICO booth, with his software packages Print It and Picture It. REmember, Peter Hoddie described Print It as the Fairware alternative to Font Writer! I understand that both packages were quite a big hit at the XPO. (At least that's what Rodger told me!) P.S. Rodger, thanks for the gas.

I had the pleasure of meeting the two gentlemen behind Great Lakes Software, 804 E. Howell, Mi. 48843, Gene Chandler and Richard Paquette. They had all their software represented including Joy Paint '99, Joy Paint Pal, and Certificate '99 Companion. Their latest release of Certificate '99, V2.0, was there also! This is one company who listens to the T.I. community.

Terrie Masters, Tom Freeman, Gail Fair and the impeccable Fred Moore were found at the L.A. 99er Computer Group booth. P.O. Box 67A79, L.A., Ca. 90067-1079. The entire L.A. library was there along with software they support from Ryte Data, Genial Computerware, Bytemaster, MG, Inscebot, etc. Handouts were also available introducing McCann Software's newest project (not software) the Avanti-99 Forth Card! For info, McCann Software, P.O. Box 34160, Omaha, Ne. 68134.

Now for Regina! Ahh, the highlight of my vacation! She had for sale, her BASIC software collections. Cheryl Whitelaw, P.O. Box 1502, Cedar City, Utah, 84720, 801-586-0157. What a lady. (I got her autograph!) It was so nice to talk to her, really makes you glad you're part of this community (family!)

The one and only Ken Gilliland, author of the most unique and comprehensive MGS (music, graphics and speech) software packages available for the 4/A, (that O.K. Ken?) spearheaded (ouch!) the Fairware booth hosted by SNUG. There was absolutely NO support for Fairware this year. What gives? The collected donation was to go directly back to the authors for their efforts in keeping the 4/A alive. Can the new phase be expensive hardware rather that more than reasonably priced software! Uh huh, right! Ken completly reworked Dick Altman's Fairware list and was selling copies there. A few of those did sell and were well worth the $3.00 Ken asked, which only covered the copy charges. Huge list! Ken Gilliland, 543 Riverdale Dr., #15, Glendale, Ca., 91204. Support the authors and (as Ken says) "save a starving programmer!"

SNUG (host group) had a booth with some interesting things going on. (Someone please tell me what they were. Didn't spend much time there, sorry!) I did meet Steve Buchanan, V.P. Super guy! SNUG, P.O. Box 26301, Las Vegas, Nv., 89126-0301. BBS 702-648-1247.

The registration booth was handled by some unsung heroes, again I'm failing to give proper recognition for their untiring efforts. Sorry guys. They were members of the Southwest Ninety-Niners User's Group which sponsored the booth. Nice badges!

B.J. and Jack Mathis represented the Southwest Ninety-Niners User's Group booth. P.O. Box 17831, Tucson, Az., 85730. They has several things to sell. A busy booth over the weekend.

Bud Mills, the new owner of Horizon. Bud Mills Services, 166 Dartmouth Dr., Toledo, Oh., 43614, 419-385-5946. What a pleasure to finally meet him. Another leader in this community. He had the new line of Horizon RAMdisks, the HRD+ built with 32k chips instead of 8k, and plenty of parts kits too. Also found at the booth was Edward A. Hallett, creator of the 256k mod for the Horizon RAMdisk. 5600 S. Countyclub #64, Tuscon, Az., 85706, 602-889-6930. P.S. Dennis, Ed said you did O.K.!

Les and Marie Merryman representing L and M Systems were there. 2330 E. Ave. J-8 #173, Lancaster, Ca. 93535, 805-948-1587. They of course had some 9640's to sell. Handouts were also available with prices of their product line. Marie, enjoyed your company at brunch on Sunday.

Jack Riley represented Myarc. P.O. Box 140, Basking

Ridge, N.J., 07920-1014, and showed the 9640 and a few things that I'm sure I missed, including the new hard disk controller card shown during one of the presentations. Bob, I would like to have seen that!

Finally we come to Ray Kazmer, 13225 Azores Ave., Sylmar, Ca. 91342, 818-367-9340. (Oh, was that an unlisted phone number Ray? Sorry! Hee hee!) Ray was found all over the show floor this weekend (didn't really have a home) with a group of at least 10 to 15 people around him at all times. But seriously folks, (what Ray? Keep that part in?) he was quite a hit. Would you believe a member of his fan club (yes! fan club!) came all the way from San Diego California just to meet him? I didn't think you would, but it really did happen! P.S. No Ray, it really wasn't your snoring that kept Rodger and myself from sleeping... it was those little piles of nickels constantly toppling over all night! 5,10,15,20...!

Well, that's the show floor, as best as I can remember. There were also many presentations held throughout both days. On Saturday, I was able to attend presentations by both Peter Hoddie and Ray Kazmer. Peter showed the new Rave memory enhancement card. It uses an operating system similar to JJ's for the Horizon but modified by Peter for the Rave. One nice feature was the ability to program macros in the TI-Writer editor. Not just single macros, but multiple line macros. Wow! With so many RAMdisks available today, Peter said that for those in the market for one, Rave's product appears to have the best features of them all. Peter also showed Remind Me! by John A. Johnson, one of my favorites. Glad to have been helpful in providing the sample handout for your demo, Peter.

Ray Kazmer presented us with his new Infocom Rapid Loader V2.0. This new version will load your Infocom adventures in only 28 seconds! Also presented by Ray was the first actual true animation available for the 4/A. These were just demos, but very impressive. Several different sequences were shown, having been developed independently by two individual programmers. What was amazing was that both techniques created the same results. Smooth, single pixel animation! A presentation not to have been missed (or walked out on!) hee hee.

If anyone wants to know how I got the nickname of "Kamikaze Mehr" from Ray on Sunday morning, driving to Circus Circus for breakfast, you'll have to ask him (Rodger's still in shock!) Bonzai! Back at the XPO Sunday morning, we observed two very tired show participants, namely Jim Lohmeyer and Peter Hoddie. It appeared that on Saturday night (around 11:00 P.M., I think) they snuck past the guard and went to work on designing and writing a program to be released on Sunday. I believe it was completed by 5:30 A.M. Had Jim not been so tired, he might have thought of having Rodger Merritt print the disk labels. Oh well, the felt tip marker looked nice anyway. The program is called Encode-It and is (and I quote) "designed to allow encryption of a file or an entire disk...", "...will work on any file type and any format disk, including RAMdisk.", "The main purpose of encrypting, is to allow selected usage of a file or disk. Once encrypted, the file can only be decrypted correctly by using the exact code used to encrypt it." They are asking only $4.00 for Encode-It and that's quite a value. When asked why they wrote such a program, they simply said that "they were very tired!" Send your support to: J. Peter Hoddie, 12 Paul Revere Rd., Lexington, Ma., 02173 or Jim Lohmeyer, P.O. Box 122, Leroy, Il., 61752. P.S. Jim, I fell for Ray's cigarette butt prank too!

Later, on Sunday, I attended Peter's presentation again. He introduced FirstBase, a new era in database programs. Written in c99 by Warren Agee, this will surely be a winner. What Peter showed looked quite impressive. FirstBase includes batch processing, multiple keyword searches, macros, etc., and the largest data capacity available for the 4/A or 9640.

Well, I guess that's about it. With so many things to remember (forget) I hope I don't upset too many of my 4/A family in this report. A special note to Bill Gaskill. What a pleasure it was to meet you, Bill! But tell me, where did you run off to? I was hoping to spend more time with you on Sunday! Bill has some surprises in store for us 99er's shortly. Remember that name. Speaking of Colorado, (who said anything about Colorado?) where was Joe Navolini? Sure wasn't the same without him. Hi, Joe!

This report was compiled from handouts made available during TI-XPO-88 and from information retrieved from my tiny brain. I hope I haven't screwed up too much information. Sooooo much to remember! Please note that prices were intentionally left out of any mention of products for obvious reasons (typos.) Please contact the respective individuals for pricing information.

With so many people to thank during such an event, it's impossible to catch them all. So, for everyone who participated, for those I knew, and for those I just met, let me say THANK YOU, and I hope to see you all next year! Special thanks go to the Palace Station. As pleasant a stay as any I've had in Las Vegas. I highly recommend them!

Please feel free to reprint this report giving the original source to: Steven D. Mehr, Thousand Oaks, Ca. 805-379-2937. Thank you.

Did you know that...?

by Chick De Marti Feb. 1988

MY ADVICE TO BEGINNERS
By Chick De marti

To become comfortable at your computer, all it takes is time. Time at the keyboard. Any avid game fan can outplay me in ANY game, because he/she spends TIME at it...I don't. The first time he/she plays a certain game, the score isn't necessarily impressive, but with time they become champs.

I've been programing in Basic and XBasic XBasic) since I purchased my TI, but admit to being a beginner in LOGO and FORTH.The beauty of Basic is that I could write a 5 to 10 line "what if...?" program and see the results, good or bad, immediately. Most beginners have the mistaken idea taht they must write useful code right from the start. Aint so! Aint the way to learn! Play around with an idea, try it this way...then that way. The machine may lock up, but it wont explode! So my advice is simple. JUMP IN ... don't be afraid of making mistakes. That's part of the the learning process. A wise man once said, "If you do it right, you already know it. If you do it wrong, you just LEARNED something"

Here is a little something to play around with. It is a routine to stop a scroll. It could come in handy with a READ DV/80 FILES type program. The first one will stop the scrolling when you press the space bar.

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 PRINT "THIS IS A TEST"
30 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
40 IF K=32 THEN 30
50 PRINT
60 IF K=13 THEN END ! Press
<ENTER> to quit
70 GOTO 20
```

The whole routine is lines 30 and 40 (and that could have been written in one line)the balance of the program is to create a scroll ing situation. Now change line 40 to:

```
40 IF K<>32 THEN 30
```

Now the program will only scroll WHILE you are holding down the space bar.

Try writing a program to READ a DV/80 file and include either version of this routine.

This next item comes from the POMONA VALLEY Computer Group (and I believe, Bill Harms). It scrolls an underline beneath a displayed string and the unique thing about it is it aligns itself beneath the string perfectly. First try this little demo:

```
110 DISPLAY AT(4,4):"Underli
ne Routine"
1030 CALL CHAR(95,"00FF")
1040 CALL HCHAR(5,4,95,17)
1050 GOTO 1050
```

You'll notice the Col. 4 of the DISPLAY AT routine does NOT line up with Col. 4 of the CALL HCHAR. Now enter the routine as Harms wrote it.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 DISPLAY AT(4,4):"Underli
ne Routine"
120 CALL UL(4,4,17)
130 GOTO 130
1000 ! UNDERLINE ROUTINE
1010 SUB UL(R,C,L)
1020 ! ( Row,Col,Length )
1030 CALL CHAR(95,"00FF")
1040 FOR I=1 TO L :: CALL HC
HAR(R+1,C+2,95):: C=C+1 :: N
EXT I
1050 SUBEND
```

After you have entered and run it, to see that it works, make these little changes. (This not meant to be an improvement ti the routine, but simply a way to demo it's real capabilities).

```
102 PRINT "Enter a string" :
: INPUT A$
105 L=LEN(A$):: C=(28-L)/2
110 DISPLAY AT(4,C):A$
120 CALL UL(4,C,L)
130 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0
THEN 130
140 CALL HCHAR(4,1,32,64)::
GOTO 102
```

<(*)><(*)><(*)><(*)><(*)><(*)>

(Did You Know ... cont.)

RANDOM NUMBERS

I recently saw an item suggesting CALL PEEK (-31880,Z) as an alternate to Z=INT(RND*99)+1 +1. I thought,"that would be neat!" and so I wrote this routine to view 2 lines of the random numbers. The result is surprising!!

```
100 CALL INIT
110 FOR I=1 TO 14
120 CALL PEEK(-31880,Z)
130 PRINT Z;
140 NEXT I
```

After viewing the strange results, I added:

```
115 N=INT(RND*99)+1
130 PRINT Z;N
```

- - - SURPRISE, surprise!!

<*><*><*><*><*><*><*>

A FIX FOR TIWRITER

From Rick Cosmano of El Cajon: search the FORMA1 file for 23 21 40 26.
Change the 40 26 to 60 5C. This will now allow you to use the & and the @ as.. regular text characters. The "TICK" ctrl C is now used for overstrike and the (fctn Z) the "BACKSLASH" is used for the underscore.

NOTE: Rick's Gram Kracker location was at A571. Search for the above code at that location.

<*><*><*><*><*><*><*>

N E W N E W N E W

From LIMA 99/4A U.G. Sept.'87

3.5 INCH DRIVES FOR THE 99/4A

We ran across an advertisement on page 211 of Sept.'87 issue of Computer Shopper offering a Toshiba 3.5 in drive and a conversion kit for the TI 99/4A for $125. This is said to work with Myarc or Corcomp controlers... (no mention of TI controlers in the ad).
For more information call or write:
Alpha Scientific 214-878-7117
P.O. BOX 626
Chesterfield, MO 63006:

DIGITIZER FOR TI?!!

From the Charlotte 99/4A UG

There is an article in the TI Forum on CompuServe, by Steve Langguth in which he describes a new product called the ImageWise Video Digitizer, developed by Stever Garcia of BYTE magazine. The system is composed of a digitizer and transmitter and a receiver/display, which are boards which may be purchased assembled, or bouth with the one necessary Eprom and put together by the buyer for about $150. the board receives input from a video camera, VCR, or LaserDisc player and stores the picture with abundant detail. With conversion through a program written by Langguth, the image is then downloaded into the TI through the RS232 port, and written to disk. Another simple XB program converts it to TIArtist format. If any are interested I have the articles on the Digitizer from BYTE magazine. For more information you may contact:

Steve Langguth
2956 South Barnes
Springfield, MO 65804

SO OLD IT'S NEW

Almost daily new people join Computer Clubs and are introduced to valuable "new Ideas". Here are two (related) "new ideas" I'm sure will please them, entitled ALL IS NOT LOST

#1 In TI-Writer, if you erase a line in error, press CTRL-1 (know as the "OOPS" combination) and your line is restored. This is because your line remains in memory till you enter a new line.

#2 When in Basic (or XBasic), if you press Fctn-3 by mistake and ERASE your data, DON'T PRESS ENTER! Instead, press Fctn P (the quotation mark) and then <ENTER> You will get a syntax error message(the computer will find unmatched quotation marks). In XBasic you can press Fctn 8 (the REDO key) and view the missing line or in either Basic, type the missing line's number and Fctn E (or X)"

Well, I'm out of coffee. See you next month
Chick

* CIN-DAY * CIN-DAY * CIN-DAY * CIN-DAY * CIN-DAY * CIN-DAY *

```
,43,1/14/87,10,16,19,20,29,4
3,1/21/87,3,4,6,10,13,19,1/2
8/87,6,8,17,25,26,28 !056
650 DATA 2/4/87,3,5,19,34,37
,40,2/11/87,6,7,8,9,28,30,2/
18/87,9,10,17,20,24,32,2/25/
87,21,23,32,33,35,42 !062
660 DATA 3/4/87,1,5,19,23,25
,28,3/11/87,7,14,24,31,40,41
,3/18/87,6,10,22,29,31,41,3/
25/87,1,7,10,11,23,33 !084
670 DATA 4/1/87,7,15,29,32,3
3,44,4/8/87,7,9,18,34,41,43,
4/15/87,2,3,14,18,22,31,4/22
/87,1,9,22,24,41,42 !015
680 DATA 4/25/87,9,17,22,24,
31,34,4/29/87,4,7,18,22,24,3
8,5/2/87,1,4,7,8,12,36,5/6/8
7,4,15,21,24,33,37 !234
690 DATA 5/9/87,4,10,19,23,2
6,43,5/13/87,19,21,27,30,31,
36,5/16/87,6,10,17,20,23,43,
5/20/87,5,14,18,21,25,38 !01
4
700 DATA 5/23/87,3,4,13,21,2
9,33,5/27/87,6,18,22,27,33,3
6,5/30/87,7,13,26,36,40,42,6
/3/87,15,17,23,29,39,40 !232
710 DATA 6/6/87,10,12,23,24,
27,28,6/10/87,8,10,13,15,19,
30,6/13/87,6,22,25,28,37,39,
6/17/87,10,14,28,35,42,44
720 DATA 6/20/87,7,26,30,35,
37,44,6/24/87,2,5,9,10,33,41
,6/27/87,1,7,8,19,23,42,7/1/
87,13,18,19,22,27,28 !080
730 DATA 7/4/87,1,5,10,22,24
,33,7/8/87,7,10,17,22,38,44,
7/11/87,9,10,22,28,31,33,7/1
5/87,1,10,14,28,36,43 !108
740 DATA 7/18/87,19,28,33,34
,35,37,7/22/87,5,7,23,31,35,
36,7/25/87,21,27,33,35,39,42
,7/29/87,1,5,10,11,35,44 !04
3
750 DATA 8/1/87,2,3,12,22,24
,41,8/5/87,2,6,9,21,29,36 !2
80
```

OHIO SUPER LOTTO ANALYSIS 2/19/86 - 8/5/87

NUMBER	OCCURANCES	HISTOGRAM - 92 WEEKS
1	13	!$$$$$$$$$$$$
2	10	!$$$$$$$$$$
3	11	!$$$$$$$$$$$
4	14	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
5	14	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
6	13	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$
7	17	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
8	9	!$$$$$$$$$
9	16	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
10	20	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
11	4	!$$$$
12	10	!$$$$$$$$$$
13	12	!$$$$$$$$$$$$
14	10	!$$$$$$$$$$
15	10	!$$$$$$$$$$
16	11	!$$$$$$$$$$$
17	10	!$$$$$$$$$$
18	11	!$$$$$$$$$$$
19	20	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
20	8	!$$$$$$$$
21	16	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
22	17	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
23	15	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
24	15	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
25	14	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
26	10	!$$$$$$$$$$
27	13	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$
28	18	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
29	11	!$$$$$$$$$$$
30	6	!$$$$$$
31	16	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
32	12	!$$$$$$$$$$$$
33	16	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
34	12	!$$$$$$$$$$$$
35	15	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
36	11	!$$$$$$$$$$$
37	12	!$$$$$$$$$$$$
38	11	!$$$$$$$$$$$
39	8	!$$$$$$$$
40	14	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
41	11	!$$$$$$$$$$$
42	13	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$
43	10	!$$$$$$$$$$
44	13	!$$$$$$$$$$$$$

```
100 ! CONVERT TI-ARTIST INST
ANCES
110 ! TO TI-WRITER FILES
120 ! from Chicago Times 4-3
0-87
130 ! Original by David Dhei
m
140 ! Enhanced by Paul Burg,
Trio+ Software
150 ! Extended Basic - EPSON
only
160 ! Modified by Lutz Winkl
er, 12-02-87
165 ! Will not append _I to
converted file
166 ! Reduces conversion tim
e depending on number of zer
os in the instance
167 ! Average time saved: 15
%
170 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREE
N(1):: FOR COL=0 TO 12 :: CA
LL COLOR(COL,16,1):: NEXT CO
L
180 DISPLAY AT(1,4):"TI-ARTI
ST TO TI-WRITER": :"      CO
NVERSION PROGRAM"
190 DISPLAY AT(5,1):"$$$$$$$
EPSON VERSION $$$$$$"
200 DISPLAY AT(7,1):"INSTANC
E FILE NAME:"
210 DISPLAY AT(8,1):"DSK1."
220 ACCEPT AT(8,6)SIZE(-14):
OLD$
230 DISPLAY AT(10,1):"NEW FI
LE NAME:"
240 DISPLAY AT(11,1):"DSK1."
250 ACCEPT AT(11,6)SIZE(-14)
:NEW$
260 A$="DSK"&OLD$ :: B$="DSK
"&NEW$
270 DISPLAY AT(13,1):"CENTER
 OUTPUT? Y"
280 ACCEPT VALIDATE("YN")SIZ
E(-1)AT(13,16):C$
290 OPEN #1:A$,INPUT :: OPEN
 #2:B$
300 INPUT #1:I,Y :: IF I<>Y*2
5 THEN DISPLAY AT(20,3):"Thi
s will take a while," :: DIS
PLAY AT(21,3):"be patient...
"
310 PRINT #2:".TL 92:10" ! B
acksLash used as line feed
320 PRINT #2:".TL 61:27,65,8
" :: PRINT #2:".TL 62:27,65,
12" :: PRINT #2:"=" ! Equal
sign is 8/72, Greater Than i
s 1/6 (default) line spacing
330 N$="" :: FOR N=1 TO I ::
 N$=N$&CHR$(127-N):: NEXT N
340 FOR K=1 TO Y
350 FOR L=1 TO I
360 INPUT #1:C(7),C(6),C(5),
C(4),C(3),C(2),C(1),C(0)
370 FOR I=7 TO 0 STEP -1
380 A=C(I):: IF A=0 THEN 402
390 FOR J=7 TO 0 STEP -1 ::
IF 2^J>A THEN 400 :: A=A-2^J
 :: B(J)=B(J)+2^I
400 NEXT J :: GOTO 402
401 A$="@"
402 NEXT I
410 A$=STR$(B(0)):: B(0)=0
420 FOR I=1 TO 7 :: A$=STR$(
B(I))&A$ :: B(I)=0 :: NE
XT I
430 PRINT #2:".TL "&SEG$(STR
$(127-L),1,3)&":27,75,8,0,"&
A$
440 NEXT L
450 IF C$="Y" THEN PRINT #2:
".CE"
460 PRINT #2:N$&"\"
470 NEXT K
480 FOR N=1 TO I :: N$="".TL
" :: N1$=SEG$(STR$(127-N),1,
3):: N$=N$&N1$&":"&N1$ :: PR
INT #2:N$ :: NEXT N
490 PRINT #2:".TL 92:92"
500 PRINT #2:".TL 61:61"
510 PRINT #2:")"
520 PRINT #2:".TL 62:62"
530 CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2
540 CALL CLEAR
550 END
```

FASTER CONVERSIONS

from TI-Artist to TI-Writer

The original version of this program (TI-Artist Instances to TI-Writer Conversion) appeared in the June 1987 issue of our newsletter. Basically, there is nothing wrong with it. But there were two things which bugged me. First, the file input routine. It automatically adds "_I" to the file it creates, though the new file is no longer compatible with TI-Artist. Second, the program is s--l--o--w.

Making the file input more flexible was no problem. I can now enter a proper instance file name suffixed with _I and generate a file with a name of my choice to which I append _T, indicating it is ready for TI-Writer. Attempting to speed things up was another matter. The heart of the program, the conversion routine, is very well and cleverly written. An instance file is nothing more than character definitions, except they are shown as decimals, not in hex. Converting these definitions to pin-firing patterns takes time. Ideally, it would be done with an assembly routine via CALL LINK, but until (and unless) somebody comes up with one, we are stuck with this program. I found only one place for a minor improvement. This shows in line 380 after A=C(I) "IF A=0 THEN 420" avoids going into the next loop (FOR J=7 TO 1 STEP -1). Since J always starts out being 7, any value of A (even zero) was checked to see if it was greater than 2^J (2x2x2x2x2x2x2). Exponentation requires a lot more time than a simple A=0, which is the only reason this modification results in a modest gain in performance.

Tests show that conversions with the modified program take about 15% less time. For example, an instance of 11x14 characters took 10:50 minutes to covert with the original and 9:20 with the modified program. The 15% figure is an average and conversions vary with the number of times a zero occurs in the instance file. If the instance is drawn black-on-white, there will be an improvement, if it is done white-on-black, don't expect much. Since an instance is saved in DIS/VAR 80 format, look at it with TI-Writer and if you see a lot of zeros, you can be sure it will convert a bit faster. By the way, on line 1 of the file there are two numbers. They show the width and length (in 8x8-pixel characters) of the instance. They are read by the program (X and Y in line 300) and set the limits for the K and L loops (lines 340 and 350).

While I was modifying the program, I decided to delete the printer selection, too. I have an Epson, so why waste time on one more key press and several lines of code. (Says he who also added a line [170] to set screen and text colors.) For those who do not own Epson-compatible printers: The transliterations for the characters which are used as printer commands are shown in lines 310 and 320. The backslash (ASCII 92) is used as a linefeed (ASCII 10), the = sign (ASCII 61) for 8/72 line spacing and the) sign (ASCII 62) to return to the default (1/6) line spacing. One more transliteration occurs near the end of line 430. It shows as :27,75,8,0 which is Epsonese for ESC K n n or 'Turn single-density graphics mode on.'

(Ed: Lutz Winkler)

E Z * BASICS

by Chick De Marti

EZ-BASICS (1)

EZ-BASICS is meant to be the layman's way of learning BASIC or X/BASIC. It will consist of an explanation, followed by an Exam. The explanations will not be so technical as to lose the reader, yet informative enough to stimulate his interest and therefore add to his/her knowledge. And for the most part the demos will be useful.

Not everyone wants to be a programmer,but we all can learn enough about our computer to make IT work for us. We were not meant to a slave to our computer (although sometimes, my wife believes otherwise).

"There is a significant difference between the way we think and the way a computer does For complex, abstract thinking a chial can easily outdo the finest computer".
These words come from an article in COMPUTE!, March 1982, by Richard Mansfield.

You have to talk to a computer as if it were a child...from another country. A typical conversation with a computer might go something like this.

```
YOU  Do you know how much 2 and 2 is?
IT   Sure!
YOU  Good! Will you tell me please?
IT   Tell you what?
YOU  Tell me what is 2 and 2 ?!
IT   Variable.
YOU  I KNOW THAT. HOW MUCH IS 2 AND 2?
IT   4.
```

You see? You have to instruct the computer in exactly what to do! "On the other hand, the computer is faster than any human ...and it was designed to be efficient when dealing with numbers", the article continued.

Another thing it does well is REMEMBER. In a program, if you were to enter a line:

```
10 A=50
```

You might not need this information till later...

```
500 PRINT A
```

and your computer would respond correctly.

Let's try something a little different. Enter this S H O R T program.

```
10 A=50
20 END
```

Now type RUN and hit <E>nter and nothing will appear to happen...but the program did run and it ENDed. Now in the immediate mode (no line number) type PRINT A and <E>nter.

The 99/4A will respond with 50. See, it did remember! By the way, had you entered:

PRINT B the computer would have responded with a zero. That's because you hadn't given the B a value yet. Without line numbers type

```
B=100     <E>nter
PRINT A   <E>nter
```

The computer will respond with 50. It still haven't forgotten. Now enter PRINT B and it will display 100. Incidently, if you really want the computer to print an A enter:

```
PRINT "A"     (in quotation marks).
```

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

PRINT Some Basic rules

PRINT can print a value or a sting of values. Enter:

```
PRINT 40
PRINT A;B;C
```

PRINT can display a letter, character, or a string of letters (word,sentence, etc.)

```
PRINT "OUCH # *  !"
```

NOTE: If you put a number in front of an instruction, then that instruction. will become part of a program. Type

```
LIST     <E>nter
```

```
10 A=50
20 END
```

appears. Your little pro- is still in the computer's memory. Now enter:

```
15 PRINT A,B
```

Before you type RUN, what do you think your little program will do?

Type RUN <E>nter

How come our trusty 99/4A displayed:

```
          50        0
Why not   50      100     ???
```

Ans. Because we are now in program mode, and in our program, we have not given B a value yet.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

PRINT also prints a blank line. Let's add another line to our little program. Enter:

```
 5 B=100
16 PRINT   (this will PRINT a blank line
19 PRINT B;A
```

First let's LIST our program. The program is

```
 5 B=100
10 A=50
15 PRINT A,B
16 PRINT
19 PRINT B;A
20 END
```

As you have noticed, all the line numbers are in the correct order although we entered them otherwise. Your computer does handy little things like that. Now RUN the program. The display should be:

```
50              100

100 50
```

Lines 5 and 10 stored the information it was given...line 15 it PRINTed the value of A - B Because we seperated the two letters with a comma, the TI displayed each variable in two "COLUMNS". Next, line 16 PRINTed a blank line and line 19 PRINTed the two numbers this time SIDE by SIDE. The semi-colon directs the TI to display the items "NEXT to each other". But in all cases of numbers the 99/4A leaves a space on either side.

A quick review...In PRINT statements...

the COMMA	prints the next entry in the center of the screen.
the SEMI-COLON	will print the next item next to the last printed entry. Some examples: In the immediate mode

```
PRINT "A";"B";"C"
PRINT 8;9;10
```

The screen displays ABC

```
                 8  9  10
```

The letters were PRINTed NEXT to each other, while there is a space on EITHER side of the numbers. (note the 8 is under the B instead of the A). "What would happen if I used the COLON instead of a semi-colon"? you ask. The TI would PRINT the next item on the NEXT line

```
PRINT "LINE 1":"LINE 2":"LINE 3"
```

The computer will display:

```
LINE 1
LINE 2
LINE 3
```

This leads to a favorite trick of many programers. Use the COLON to print a blank line Try this out:

```
PRINT "LINE 1": :"LINE 3": :"LINE 5"
```

And the computer displays:

```
LINE 1

LINE 3

LINE 5
```

You can put as many COLONs (each seperated by a space) as you want blank lines. Example:

```
PRINT "LINE 1": : : : : :"LINE 7"
```

And yes! You can even put the colon BEFORE an item. Type NEW to clear our little program from memory, then enter:

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 INPUT "Enter your name ":NAME$
30 PRINT : : :"Hello ";NAME$
40 PRINT : : :"Goodbye",NAME$
50 PRINT : : : : : :
60 INPUT "Press <<ENTER> to quit ":E$
70 PRINT : : : : : : : : :TAB(11);
   "THE"
80 PRINT TAB(11);"END": : : : : : :
   : : : :
90 END
```

Several techniques are demonstrated here. You can put colons BEFORE an item, (see lines 30 and 40). (Did you notice the comma used to seperate "Goodbye" and (your)NAME$?) And of course you can add colons AFTER an item. You can also add "TAB(n);" AFTER the colons (see line 70) and even use colons to create a blank screen. See lines 70,80, and 90.

These are not necessarily the best programing methods, but they do help to demonstrate the various uses of the PRINT command.

REVIEW: You have talked to a computer, done some things in immediate mode, and have written two programs (such as they are). You have also learned about the PRINT command in connection with COLONS, SEMI-COLONS, and COMMAS. You were introduced to the INPUT statement.

Next month we will explore the use of PRINT to create motion (and other goodies for the Beginner. Till then enjoy your computer!

LI TOPICS

by Howie Rosenberg

When Texas Instruments first started marketing the TI-99/4, they coined the phrase "Home Computer". Others have since picked up on the phrase and while the "low end, toy store marketing" phenomenon is a thing of the past, the reality of computers in the homes of a large segment of our population has arrived. Many of those not exposed to computers at home are in the workplace and schools. There are several side effects of this exposure which I hope I have misread. One popular type of program is the Spelling Checker. The Morningstar Spell Checker for the TI is an example of this type of program. As all who use spell checkers are aware (or should be) there are some dangers in relying on their use. Spell Checkers do NOT look for correct usage of words in context. Thus words like to, two, and too pass the test equally well and are accepted as correct. If the last sentence had read "excepted as correct", a Spell Checker program would have accepted it. This presents what I see as a rather serious problem not in that spelling errors are getting by and into documents, letters and such but in that incorrect spelling is reinforced. If the author is told that what he has just created is correct then he will perpetuate his mistakes. I have seen a degradation in spelling in Magazines, Newspapers, and books. As an example look at the word lose. The correct spelling of this word has been, I feel, lost forever as I see it spelled loose more often than not! Interesting (to me at least) is the fact that the first time I saw lose spelled incorrectly was in a tear jerking letter from Charles La Fara explaining his bankruptcy. He stated that he stood to loose everything that he and his wife had saved.

There is another type of program used by authors as an aid namely the thesaurus. To my knowledge no thesaurus programs are available for the TI. This is a surprise because while spell checkers in order to operate at a reasonable speed should operate out of memory, this is not needed for a thesaurus which can perform disk access on each use. Thus the TI with its limited memory by modern standards could well make use of such programs (anyone out there ready to start coding?). In any event the zealous use of the thesaurus results in what I detect as a large number of malapropisms which appear in print lately. When using the thesaurus, it is up to the author to choose a word which has the identical meaning to the original, in the context used or, better to choose the word which best conveys the authors thought. The list of words presented by a thesaurus as alternates to the word inputted are NOT identical in meaning. A rather ludicrous illustration appeared just this week in a mail order catalog I received. An ad for a hardware thesaurus/spell checker device presented an interesting puzzle. By selecting a synonym for good, followed by taking a synonym for the last word selected, go from good to evil in the fewest "moves". Two answers were presented which took three and two moves respectively. The synonyms were found in Rogets thesaurus. First, Fine is a synonym for good, delicate is a synonym for fine, ill for delicate, and finally evil for ill. Second, Fit for good, outrage for fit, and evil for outrage. As you see one must be careful in selecting words using a thesaurus.

I hear many folks saying that with the widespread use of computers one need not learn to spell or, even have a large vocabulary. All one needs is the know how to boot the machine and have it do the work. I have heard similar concepts expounded in relation to learning arithmetic long before the "home computer" became popular. With the advent of the pocket calculator many said that it was no longer necessary to learn multiplication etc. How sad if we stop using our brains and let our machines do it all.

WHAT WE NEED

Several have asked via message on Genie for suggestions for programs that they can write which would be useful to TIers. I have been asked the same question several times in recent days so for what it's worth here are my suggestions:

1) The thesaurus discussed above(I know what I said it's still useful if used properly).

2) A calculator. Full functions with a few memories to boot. RPN would be great but ADS acceptable too.

3) Databases. There is still lots of room for improvements, size of records, keyword search, relational(maybe). Perhaps the newly announced DB soon to be sold by Genial may be an improvement over what's now available.

AROUND THE BOARDS

The sensation of recent weeks on the bulletin board circuit is the new Emulator TELCO. Presently in its fourth revision in a few short weeks, Telco appears to have set a record in this area. Many nice features previously not available in TI Emulators.

My vote for the most lively, active, BBS goes to Bob Fowlers BBBB located in the Washington DC area. It's PC Pursuitable DCWAS 292-1483. Some rather lively debates on BBBB. Both 99/4A and 9640 are covered and a rather extensive file area is maintained.

A PRAYER

As many of you are now aware George Steffen is again hospitalized. I know you all join me in our prayers for Georges rapid recovery. Can't keep a guy like George down.

MAKING YOUR COMPUTER GUESS

by Tom Freeman

Last month I promised an article on making your computer guess an answer - so here it is. This is a Q&D program I wrote some years ago, when my programming skills were still somewhat more primitive, to answer the following question: if one makes various contributions to a retirement plan - different amounts at different times, and one knows the present value of the account, what is the AVERAGE annual rate of return. This could be used also for a savings account, if its interest rate is variable.

I really didn't want to go through complicated math to do this, and I wasn't that sure anyway, that a single formula existed that could answer my question. I pondered the problem a bit, and came up with a solution that embraces the following concept. Give the computer a reasonable first guess, let it figure out just how wrong the answer is based on that guess, then adjust the next guess to compensate and try again.

Here is a brief explanation of the program (checksums have been used - do not type the !xxx at the end of each program line). Line 110 reminds you that you need to DIM the variables if there are more than 10 "contributions," e.g. DIM A(15,C(15),T(15). Line 130 requires TWO numbers to be inputted (comma in between) first the amount contributed and second, how long in months before the next contribution. An array is set up for each pair with C(X) being the contribution, and T(X) being the time to the next one. Line 140 gives the exact known present value. Line 160 assigns the first "guess" to be 0.1, or a 10% average rate of return (not bad, eh?).

Line 170 computes the value - A(X) - at the end of each period, based on the previous period's end value - A(X-1). If R was the annual interest rate, then R/12 is the monthly rate, T(X-1) months times R/12 gives the interest for the period, add it to 1 to get new value, and multiply by the previous value A(X-1). We go through this for each period. Now in Line 180 we are saying that if the final value A(N+1) is equal of V, the present value, using integers of course, or we could be off in the 14th decimal place and the computer thinks they are not the same. If it is we print the present value of R ("integerized"). If they are not equal we get the next guess by taking the ratio of V to A(N+1) and adjusting R accordingly. I found after some trial and error and if I raised this ratio to the Nth power then the result would come much more quickly. So we keep on doing this until the right answer is achieved!

That's all there is to it. Please modify this program to suit your needs, or at least learn from it!

```
100 CALL CLEAR !209
110 PRINT "MAXIMUM NUMBER OF
 CONTRIBU- TIONS IS 9.  IF M
ORE, THEN DIM C,T,%A TO THAT
 NUMBER + 1": ::!038
120 INPUT "NUMBER OF CONTRIB
UTIONS ";N :: PRINT !067
130 FOR X=1 TO N :: INPUT "A
MOUNT CONTRIBUTED,MONTHS TO
NEXT CONTRIBUTION OR END  "
:C(X),T(X):: PRINT :: NEXT X
 !251
140 INPUT "PRESENT VALUE ":V
 !080
150 PRINT : ;"PLEASE WAIT WH
ILE I COMPUTE" !054
160 R=0.1 !106
170 FOR X=1 TO N+1 :: A(X)=A
(X-1)*(1+R*T(X-1)/12)+C(X)::
 NEXT X !093
180 IF INT(V)=INT(A(N+1))THE
N CALL CLEAR :: PRINT : :"R=
";INT(1000*R)/1000 :: GOTO 2
00 !164
190 R=R*(V/A(N+1))^N :: GOTO
 170 !241
200 FOR X=1 TO N :: CT=CT+C(
X):: NEXT X :: PRINT :"CONTR
IBUTIONS=";CT: :"BALANCE=";V
 !203
```

RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE

The Club Raffle for the months of February and March is for a GRAM KRACKER! This issue of the newsletter might reach you too late to remind you of it, although the raffle will be delayed if there is not enough money generated. BUY BUY BUY!!!

REMEMBER NEXT MEETING - Wednesday Mar. 23, Torrance Public Library, 7 PM

****

CLUB OFFICERS

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****

Membership in the LA 99ers, including subscription to Topics is $20.00 per year

LA 99er BBS PHONES:

213-755-7239 (Danny Nelson, Sysop) and 213-864-2488 (Steve Chalcraft, Sysop)

LA99 LIBRARY CORNER

Two copies Of all program disks will be made available to the members at the regular meetings. If you plan to obtain any disks from the library at the meeting it is best to phone or write the LIBRARIAN in advance to be sure they will be on hand. I will put your name on them.

0000 LA99ers LIBRARY CATALOG MARCH 88 : SPECIAL PRICE $1.00

------ WHAT'S IN A NAME ------

Freeware Fairware Shareware Trialware Userware Donorware Feeware Tryware . Regardless what you may call a disk or program that an author has written and is asking for a Fee if you Use his program it is only Fair that you return to the author what he is asking. This is regardless of how you may have obtained the program, Free from a friend, from a BBS, from this Library or any other means you may have obtained the author's work. If you are using the program return what the author is asking. You would only want the same. Lets keep the TI programs coming. Since the most popular name is Fairware I have used Replace String in all of the files in our Library with /Freeware/Fairware/. If you find any that I missed please let me know.

NEW ADDS FOR MARCH LA99 LIBRARY

The Library Committee wish to give thanks to those who donated disk to our Library this month :Tom Freeman, Steve Mehr, Peter Hoddie, Danny Nelson, Chick DeMarti, Sol Shulman,

2220 C99 V4.0 Fairware by Clint Pulley 30 Townsend Ave. Burlington, Ont. L7T1Y6 Candana. Release 4 of C99 in update form update other REL's), pointer arrays and (gasp) goto. This new language is fast growing. DSDD(720).

2225 KERMIT 99 V2.1.5 By L.B.N.A. Product. A standard loader for Fortran -99 programs. Use E/A #5 FORTSA program name KEREXE. Has 300 bauds T/E. SSSD(241)

2452 CHARA1 By H MacDonald 1133 Winnipeg, Corpus Christ, TX 78318 : A program that rewrites CHARA1 image file from HEX to DECIMAL format. to be used with TI-Writer or TEII Terminal Emluator for control code instead of CTRL U. SSSD(43)

2453 TIW/FUNNELWEB MANUAL Fairware by JoAnn Copeland, England : An A to Z tutorial on word processing using Funlweb to print. This is a 49 page manual on TI-Writer aspect used in Funnwlwriter. 2SSSD(648).

2652 TELCO V1.3 User-Support Software by Charles Earl 34 McLeod St. Ottawa, Ontario Canada, K2P 025 A Terminal Emulator: Can emulate various terminals, automatic dial, redial, stores telephone numbers, conference mode, X-Modem and ASCii transfer, macros, device loading, print spooling, and much more. 2SSSD(520)

2653 CASSETTE/DISK V2.0 By Neil Lawson : Copy directly from cassette to disk or from disk to cassette. Use E/A opt #3 : GAME SSSD(73)

2839 ENCODE-IT Fairware by Peter Hoddie and Jim Lonmeyer 12 Paul Revere Rd. Lexington, MA 02173 : A general purpose encryption utility program designed to allow encryption of a file or an entire disk. Keep your program secret. SSSD(45)

NEW ADDS MARCH LA99 LIBRARY

3021 **TI LEDGER** Fairware by Don Scott : requires 32K,Printer, will manage up to 100 accounts in five credit/debit catagories. SSSD(171)

4538 **UNDB-START** PRBASE 2.0 JSC Users Group: Contains instructions for using UNITED 99/4 DATA BASE and a sample DATA FILE. Detailed Info. on disk "UNDB-INFO" (DV/80 FILES). SSSD(360)

4538A **UNDB-INFO** DV/80 files. Contains UNDB status and overall Info. along with sample reports. Also has "REDISKIT" (a copy prog) handy for copying PRB data disks. Also a short LABEL program. SSSD(360)

4538B **UN99DB/1** requires PRBASE 2.0. Contains 325 data screens of indexed Newsletter articles (from various UGs) with naritives, Tips, and short programs listings. SSSD(360)

4538C **UN99DB/2** requires PRBASE 2.0. Contains 325 data screens of indexed Newsletter articles (from various UGs) with naritives, Tips, and short programs listings. SSSD(360)

4538D **UN99DB/3** requires PRBASE 2.0. Contains 325 data screens of indexed Newsletter articles (from various UGs) with naritives, Tips, and short programs listings. SSSD(360)

8037 **RLE #37** Added funny cartoon picture HITANY by Steve Andrews to RLE Disk #37 along with several others. SSSD(285).

8092 **GRAPHIC EDITOR** Fairware by Rejean Felton 2661 Granby PL. #10 Montreal,Quebec,Canada : A fast and easy assembly program to create graphic for labels. Can be edited, created or modified and can be used with "Graphic Label Maker"(2429).SSSD(219)

8093 **CHAR&SPRITE MAKER** Fairware by Gordon Leonard 2404 Isabelle Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101 : A fast and easy way to make character and sprite shapes for graphic and other application. 100%% assembly. Has rote, inverse, magnify, prints character code to printer etc. Package includes E/A 5 programs with X/B loader and Docs. SSSD(74)

8094 **SOUND** By Bill Gronos : Displays sound input from casssette player onto monitor screen. An audio spectrun analyzer and turn sound analyzer into a psyschedeler light show. use E/A #3 SOUND_/O. SSSD(66)

9074 **TUNNEL OF DOOM** Fairware disk by John Bennke 5755 W. Grace Chicago, IL 60634 : three adventure type games need module. ASSULT THE CITY, QUEST FOR THE KING AND PARTY, THE TOMB OF DEATH. SSSD(230)

9077 **E/A GAMES** Fairware disk full of Editor Assembler games. BERLIN1 by Iain Johnson (#5), BREAKTHUR by Clint Pulley (#5), BUZZARD by Randy Jones (#3), D-STATION by Marty Muhaels (#3 game), MACROMAN by Markus Hofmann (#3 joystick #2), TRAPPER by Mason Sharp (#3 start) SSSD(279

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FirstBase

Available 2nd Quarter 1983

A major advance in 99/4A database technology:

- IBM-style query commands
- Batch processing with four-function floating point math
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- Handy macros

With FirstBase, the new database manager from Olympys Technologies, you can organize, manipulate, and report data like never before. We listened to what users missed most in other database managers, and what we've created is quite impressive.

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- Flexible report generator
- Written in c99
- Requires 32K, disk, and either XB, E/A, or TI-WRITER cartridge.
- Myarc Geneve 9640 compatible

Suggested retail price: $49.95
Available exclusively through

Genial Computerware
P.O. Box 183
Grafton, MA 01519

Developed by

Olympys Technologies

advancing software technology

FirstBase written by Warren Agee, c99 language by Clint Pulley. IBM is a registered trademark of International Business Machines Corp.

Which Bone Are You?

courtesy East Anglia Region 99ers

It is said that the membership of any organization is made up of four bones. There are WISH BONES who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work. Then there are JAW BONES who do all the talking and very little else. Third are the KNUCKLE BONES who knock everything that anybody else tries to do. Finally there are the BACK BONES who get under the load and do all the work.

Announcing TI-ECHO

What is TI-ECHO? It is a form of telecommunicatio that is probabably new to most TI people. It is a topic orient message base that is carried by several bulletin boards at t same time. The topic in this case being TI-99/4A's and Myc 9640's. A message entered on any one of several boards will b "echoed" to all the other participating boards. You can ask question on a bbs in Portland and have someone in another sta answer you. The msgs (sometimes called mail or ECHOmail) a usually exchanged by the bbs's on a once or twice, nightly bas and more times on weekends. Most of the mail traffic is carri on the PC PURSUIT network to keep costs to a minimum.

Where can TI-ECHO be found? It is on one these bbs's with more joining soon. We hope to have at lea one participating bbs in all of the cities serviced by PC PURSUI

Dakota InfoNet CO-OP Opus	605 338 7050	Rory Binkerd
NC Central	919 851 8460 (PCP)	Amnon Nissan
Oregon OPUS	503 692 7024 (PCP)	Rich Hill
TI Raleigh	919 833 3412 (PCP)	Walter Tietjen

For now, these will be the main bbs's in the Echo. All are run b Sysops that still own TI-99/4A's. As we pick up more and mo bbs's, we will post the info in the TI-ECHO area and also on t major network services. We have had inquiries from Bosto California and Toronto so the echo is growing! A recent wri up in the Computer Shopper didn't hurt anything either!

What does it cost to use TI-ECHO? NOTHIN nada, zip, zero bucks. (so don't ask for a discount!)

What can you do to help TI-ECHO? CALL!

Spread the word! And also ask any of your loc Sysops that handle Echomail if they would carry the TI-ECHO. he/she is interested, have him contact any of the above bbs's.

UN99 INDEXER
a review by Chick De Marti

John Owen of the JUS newsletter paid me a visit this month. Here is a dedicated man! As you remember, John visited our meeting in January and gave us a demonstration of the UN99er Item Directory, using the PRBase software. Using his system, it is possible to search (or locate) a subject, program or tip within the thousands of articles published in the hundreds of newsletters around the world. AT the demonstration he brought 3 disks, a screen formatting disk, a document disk, and a data disk containing all the articles in the Nov/Dec issue of the Topics.

On this visit John brought us 5 disks (see the Library section, this issue). He has completely revamped the screen format for easier application and reading. The second disk is loaded with documentation and tips, and he has included 3 disks of data. The data is the aforementioned articles from 3 clubs who are currently participating in this indexing project (we are still looking for volunteers to enter only one (1) month's worth of Topic articles, each).

Take advantage of the work that has been done by looking into these disks. It is also a good way to learn how to use PRBase, a fine Data Base Software package.

2321 Wintergreen Dr.
Grand Junction, Co.
81506 Feb 22, 1988

LA99ers
Box 67A79
Los Angles, Ca.
90067-1079

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed you will find two disks containing public domain programs and data files from the MINDEX (Master INDEX of all 99/4, 4A and 9640 information) effort I have undertaken in recent months. I ask that you include them in your club library for distribution (without cost other than disk/copy fees) to anyone desiring a copy.

The un-labeled disk contains a file named HELP, one named INDEX and a program named LOAD. These files are included for those persons who might want to contribute to the MINDEX effort. The LOAD program is a write-only indexing utility set to read the INDEX file and generate D/F80 files in the size and format I use for the MINDEX project. It may also be copied at will for anyone wishing to index their information and then send me a copy of the disk. The HELP file contains a listing of all of the publications I have to date. I am interested in obtaining index information on anything not on the list.

I read with interest the coverage given to John Owens' UNITED 99/4 DATA BASE in the FEB88 issue of the LA99er TImes. It is both fortunate and unfortunate that we seem to be doing the same thing. After looking at the amount of information included in each PR BASE record his effort may be a bit more useful. Mine is designed only as a reference, so that one can find a source of information. They still have to go out and find the publication that the indexed item appears in. For me, that has not been a problem since my Users Group or some one in it seems to have about everything. That is not necessarily the same for everyone though, I guess. As an aside, I too have indexed everything with PR BASE, only I am using Mike Dodd's V2.1 implementation since the disks can be copied with any disk manager.

At any rate, until something happens to change my mind, I am still seeking input for the MINDEX project. Any publicity you would care to generate on behalf of the project will be appreciated. The end result will be, like John Owens' project, a useful (and FREE) tool for any 99er.

One last point...I read that you have included my Personal Auditor V1.1 in your library. Please REMOVE IT as I am no longer offering the program, nor am I supporting it. Like Mike Dodd mentioned in his article in the FEB88 issue, FREEWARE, HAIRWARE, SHAREWARE etcetera is simply a free ride for the non-payers. I am not going to support people who don't support me. The effort netted me a whole $40 for about two years of work.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely;
Bill Gaskill

MAKE YOUR OWN DATA DISK FOR CERTIFICATE 99

By Matt Andel - TI-ChIPS - Cleveland, Ohio

You need Certificate 99 and TI-Artist to do this.

1) Copy the back side of Certificate 99.
2) Use a disk manager program (DM-1000) and rename the file names CDATA21 to CDATA21_P and CDATA22 to CDATA22_P.
3) Then load TI-Artist and choose 1) TI-Artist from the main menu. Press "S" for store. Then press "L" to Load Picture. Now the filename is CDATA21.
4) Now you should see 12 little graphics. Now you will have to draw 3 lines going down BETWEEN the pictures and 2 lines going across BETWEEN the pictures.
5) Now you can erase the little graphics, but not the lines you drew.
6) Then press FCTN Quit to return to the main menu. Then press "2" Enhancement. Then press "S" for slides. Press "6" to load instance. Now you can load your own instances and put them in the boxes you drew before.
7) When you have put your 12 instances in the boxes, press FCTN Quit to return to the main menu. Then press "1" TI-Artist. When TI-Artist comes up, get the eraser and erase the lines you drew before.
8) Now you can press "S" for store and "S" for save. The filename you will save it to is CDATA21, and you are finished with that file.
9) Now you will repeat steps 3-8, but the filename is CDATA22 and not CDATA21.
10) When you are done with CDATA22, you can exit TI-Artist and go back to your disk manager program and rename the file CDATA21_P to CDATA21 and the file CDATA22_P to CDATA22.
11) Now you can load Certificate 99 and when it tells you to flip the disk around, put in the disk you just made. Your border and font choices will be the same, but the graphics will be the ones you just made.
12) And that's all there is to it!

CERTIFICATE 99 COMPLETE
NOW AVAILABLE FROM
L.A. 99ER MARKET PLACE
PROGRAM PLUS FONTS $20.00

MAR 23 DEMONSTRATION

BY BILL HARMS

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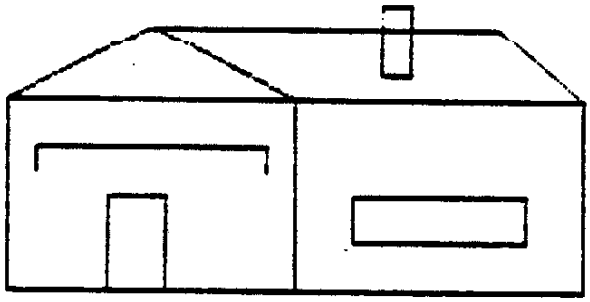
Create Letters And Special Shapes for Signs, screens Add a touch of it to your work. A bold new program to make signs, posters, and generate draftings, and otherwise put the Triton SXB Module's drawing commands to work with pixel perfect accuracy!

REQUIRES Triton Super Extended Basic, 32k memory, disk. Compatible printer and Joystick recom'd.

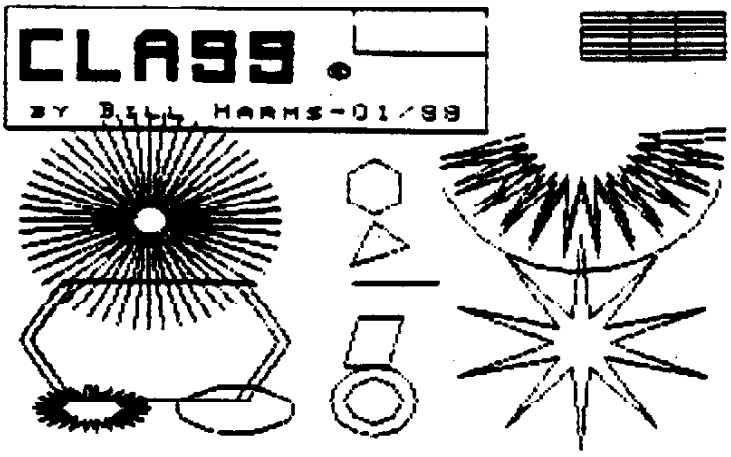
COMPATIBILITIES -- @TI-Artist's P Picture or Instance files for great effects and via DISPLAY-IT or @ART-CONVERT to put pictures, letters, etc. into text documents using @TI-Writer's Formatter to print, and convert the drawing to be usable directly by TI's Extd Basic via various programs.



CAPABILITIES *Printouts are Super Extended Basic's screen dumps of either 4x2.5" or 7x6" approx.

*Large (and small) Letters A-Z, some punctuation, 0-9, Box, Star can all be done in Block Outline Style. You enter screen placement, height, width and line size. A line size of 0 or 1 gives a "pen line" letter. A bigger size (up to 26) yields the letter in big block outline form that can be Filled in the EDIT mode. Can do a word across or down, and even inc. or dec. height of letters in the word from the 1st to last letter. Also gives you ability to overlap the characters. Can put a normal text font message anywhere on the screen.

*Special and custom shapes can be done. Arc, True-Circle, Oval, Triangle, bentline, Line, Box, Rhombus, Octagon, Hexagon, Stair steps & Grid [with step or cell size you specify], Fan, Star and other Equal sided shapes - of any size, anywhere on screen --- Most shapes can be auto. repeated Across or Down or Diagonally for n times or Fill screen equally, and Overlapped. Most shapes can be squashed or tall and thin. Add a text message in TI's normal font anywhere. Use the SHOW/EDIT option to further customize the drawing.

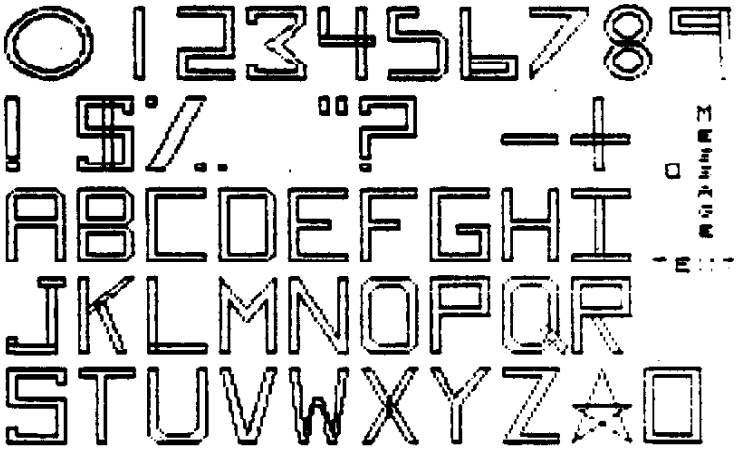


On the Design Custom Shapes screen you can enter (or load from disk) the values for up to 30 points, which the program will connect. If you wish, save and print the values for future use .

*A "drawings show" or a banner, though only semi-automatic, can be set-up. Picture file names are entered in show order and saved to disk as a file to be used for the show/print. There are many other options possible while doing the show.

Send $10.00 to Bill Harms, 6527 Hayes Court, Chino, CA 91710.

Look for release of CLASS-MATE to also use Triton's sxb for class jobs.



MARKETPLACE

(the marketplace is a fund raiser for the club, that is, the "profit" goes to maintain the quality of this News- letter. In general the price listed splits the difference between cost and retail. Please help your Club.)

SPECIAL - SUPER EXTENDED BASIC by Triton - code by MG & friends 50.00
plus P&H 2.50

MILLERS GRAPHICS

DISkASSEMBLER	18.50	ORPHAN CHRONICLES (PRICELESS)	9.95
ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS	18.50	NIGHT MISSION	18.50
GK UTILITY I	10.00	SMART PROGRAMMING FOR SPRITES	6.25

GENIAL COMPUTERWARE

XBasher (MIKE DODD)	9.00	XB:Bug (J.PETER HODDIE)	12.00
GRAM PACKER (JPH) "	9.00	REMIND ME! (JOHN JOHNSON)	12.00
PC TRANSFER (MD)	20.00	FONT PACK I (JPH)	9.00
GRAPHICS EXPANDER(JPH)	9.00		

RYTE-DATA

GPL SETS (INCLUDING ASSEMBLER AND LINKER, 4 DISKS	50.00	COMMAND DOS (MONTY SCHMIDT)	20.00
		TECHNICAL DRIVE(BOOK BY ")	15.00
BASIC COMPILER	15.00	SUPER CLOCK SUPPORT	13.50

BYTEMASTER (R. MITCHELL)

MG EXPLORER (UNPROTECTED)	20.00	STRINGMASTER	16.00
KRACKER FACTS (MIKE DODD, ED.)	5.00	UTILITIES DISK/DOCS (T FREEMAN)	8.00
ORPHAN SURVIVAL HNDBK(ALBRIGHT)	15.00	JOYPAINT	30.00
JOYPAINT PAL	7.50	CERTIFICATE 99	20.00
FONT WRITER II (JPH)	19.00	PRE-SCAN IT! (J.PETER HODDIE)	10.00
TPA FONTS DISKS 1 OR 2	9.50	PRINTER'S APPRENTICE (M.McCANN)	19.00
TPA AND FONTS DISK 1(SET)	26.50	TPA TOOLBOX	19.00

MYARC PRODUCTS, INCLUDING GENEVE - check for discount prices

INSCEBOT

TI-ARTIST	15.00	DISPLAY MASTER	12.00
ARTIST EXTRAS	6.00		

MEGATRONICS

EXTENDED BASIC II PLUS	72.50	INTERN (BOOK ON GPL)	16.50
128K GRAM CARD	227.50		

HARDWARE & SUPPLIES

TEAC 55BV DSDD DRIVES	90.00	DISKETTES DSDD	.50
TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS BOOKS	5.00		

REPRINTS

HANDY REFERENCE GUIDE	2.50	LOGO DIGEST	2.50
BEST OF NEWSLETTERS W/DISK	5.00	FORTH NOTES VOL 1-6 (2.50 EA)	10.00
BEGINNER'S FORTH NOTEBOOK	2.50	ASSEMBLY NOTES VOL 1	2.50

BACK ISSUES

SMART PROGRAMMER MISC. SET OF 8	4.00	MICROPENDIUM	1.25

(please send your order to the CLUB address, not the Librarian, and add $1.00 per disk for P & H ($2.50 for Super XB). CA residents add 6.5% tax).